

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	Military Information from the Bittkau-Tangermünde-Gardelegen-Peckfitz Area		
EVALUATION	25X1X	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1C
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	27 May 1953
REFERENCES	25X1C		
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
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SOURCE

1. On 2 May 1953, about 20 pontoons, 20 small rowboats, and a pile of beams and boards, guarded by three sentries, were seen in the Elbe River meadows near Polte in the Bittkau training area. The wood camp on the Cobbel-Bittkau dirt road was only lightly occupied by troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Truck [] and a jeep [] were seen en route to the camp. 25X1C

2. On 5 May, the parachutist camp in Tangermünde was only lightly occupied. The open shed, which previously served as store room for engineer equipment, was occupied only by a sedan. Only sentries and no activity were observed. Two 76.2-mm AA guns were emplaced in the camp. Truck [] was seen en route to the camp.¹

3. On 8 May, the army installation at the Gardelegen airfield was occupied. Sentries observed wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. About 50 soldiers engaged in training in firing and about 100 soldiers, carrying folded blankets, received field training. Sedan [] left the installation. The Remonte Kaserne was also occupied. Only a few soldiers, who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets, and a few officers, who came from hill No 63, probably from the radar set emplaced there, were observed. The kommandatura, in front of which sedan [] was seen, was on Bahnhofstrasse as previously. 25X1C

4. A three-story building and four two-story brick buildings, about 40 meters long and about 12 meters wide, were determined in the woods, about 1.5 km north of Peckfitz. The buildings were lightly occupied. Four soldiers were repairing the wooden fence. Jeep [] occupied by three infantry officers, entered the installation. About one hour earlier, the vehicle had been seen at the entrance of Camp Jaevenitz. A telephone line with apparently new poles extended toward Gardelegen.²

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1. [] Comment. Another source, too, reported the Bittkau training grounds occupied only by advance details in late April. [] and engineer equipment on the Elbe River is fairly definitely believed to belong to engineer units of the Third Shock Army, which were scheduled to be transferred to the training site, as was indicated by observations in Tangermünde, according to which the equipment of the 338th Engr Bn of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div. in early May, had been shipped away from the parachutist camp. The present location of the battalion which, according to a report in mid-April, had left Stendal and, according to another report by a third source, had left Tangermünde in late April, allegedly for summer training, is undetermined. The AA guns in the parachutist camp belong to the 953d AA Bn (US) of the above mentioned division; the motor vehicle number, however, belongs to the air force.

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2. Comment. The Gardelegen airfield is believed occupied by units of the 598th Mtz Rifle Regt of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div, which, for the protection of the area along the zonal border, most probably has strong points near Peckfitz and Kloetze. The temporary vacation of the airfield is believed to have been in connection with the employment of the regiment on the zonal border. According to another source, the Remonte Kaserne had been carried occupied by the unidentified motorcycle battalion of the division. The Dumbo-type radar set on hill No 63, northeast of the installation mentioned, has been known previously.

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